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- 7.— 1. *Vollständiges Englisch-Deutsches und Deutsch-Englisches Wörterbuch, enthaltend alle in beyden Sprachen allgemein gebräuchliche Wörter.* In Zwey Theilen.
2. *A Complete Dictionary of the English and German and German and English Languages, containing all the Words in General Use.* In Two Volumes. Vol. I. English and German ; by Dr. J. G. FLÜGEL. Vol. II. German and English ; by JOHAN SPORSCHIL. Second Edition, improved and augmented. Leipsic : A. G. Liebeskind. 1838.

SOME of us, who are not yet much past the *mezzo del cammin di nostra vita*, can remember the time when a German grammar and dictionary could not be had for love or money. The poets of Germany were as much unknown as the poets of Tartary, if such there be ; a German book, with its black paper and blacker text, with its heaps of consonants, and apparently unpronounceable words, was as frightful and repulsive as a shaggy polar bear. *Nous avons changé tout cela.* Within a few years German literature has made great progress in this country. At some of our colleges, particularly Harvard University, almost every student of any pretensions to literary distinction, masters the elements at least of the German language ; and the opinions of German philosophers and theologians have already made themselves deeply felt, whether for good or for evil, among the chaos of opinions around us.

Under such circumstances, a good dictionary of the German language becomes an affair of great importance. But a good dictionary of any language is not to be had for the asking ; and a good dictionary of a language so copious and varying as the German, can be the result only of long years of patient study, and of much skill and discrimination in the use of materials. There are peculiar difficulties in the way of making a good German-English dictionary. In the first place, there is no standard authority to regulate the usage of words. Every author forms new words to suit himself ; and perhaps many words may be found in the works of a single writer, which do not elsewhere occur. The expansive capabilities of the German language seem to be almost infinite ; and the whim and caprice of individual writers, unchecked by the controlling influence of a great capital, and intellectual centre, give a motley and whimsical aspect to German style, that we find in no other modern language. Adelung, Heinsius, and Campe have endeavoured, but without success, to do for German what Johnson did for English, and the Academy for the French language. Almost

any book in the polite literature of the Germans will be found to contain many words not recorded in the copious lexicons of these able scholars. But while this anarchy in the usage of language makes the task of the lexicographer difficult on the one hand, another fact nearly balances this difficulty on the other. The German is the most homogeneous of all the modern European languages ; and the principle of analogical formation is more completely carried out in it than in any other. The new words introduced from time to time, by the caprices or necessities of authors, are usually made by the combination of elements already existing in the primitive forms of the language itself. Even technical terms have been very sparingly introduced from foreign sources. Etymological analysis must then be extensively applied by the student of German ; and the author of a dictionary should always have this fact in mind. It is not necessary that he should be at the pains of inserting all the words that occur in the classic writers ; but he must insert all the primitive words in the language, and place within the student's reach all the elements out of which the various styles of German authors are composed. His definitions should be so formed, as to give, first the primary, radical meaning of each word, and then the various subsequent meanings in historical sequence. This can be done more satisfactorily in the German, than in any other language except the Greek. Literary monuments of the German language exist in unbroken succession from the earliest periods, when it began to be used in simple annals or in song ; and the language has been very thoroughly explored and illustrated by native writers of the greatest acuteness, industry, and learning. But a mere series of simple words, however strictly and philosophically they may be arranged and defined, will not be sufficient. The principles, which regulate the formation of compound words, are peculiar in each language ; and it by no means follows, that we shall in every case understand a compound word, because we understand its component parts, or even because we understand a similarly compounded word in another language. Two elements mingled together often produce a third different from both, — a *tertium quid*, in which the neutralizing properties of the two furnish a result partaking slightly or not at all of the qualities of either. This is as true of language, as of chemistry.

The first volume of this Dictionary, that is, the English-German part, is the work of Dr. Flügel. This gentleman has enjoyed peculiar advantages for the work he has undertaken and so well performed. He speaks the English language fluently and correctly, having resided ten years in the United States, and has been long engaged as a practical teacher. His labors in other respects towards facilitating a knowledge

of the English language to his countrymen are well known and highly appreciated. The results of all his long and varied experience are gathered in this work. He has spared no pains in bringing together whatever is useful in the labors of his predecessors, and adding to this the stores drawn from an extensive study of English literature, from Chaucer down. For the basis of the present work he has taken Johnson as a lexicographer, and Walker as an orthoëpist, though not without departing in some instances from the pronunciation given by the latter. Besides these, he has had recourse to Crabbe's Technological Dictionary, the Law Dictionaries of Jacob, Tomlinson, and Williams, the Commercial Dictionaries of Mortimer and Anderson, Falconer's Marine Dictionary, Moore's Sea Phrases, the Sportsman's Dictionary, Brown's Dictionary of the Bible, Lempriere's Classical Dictionary, Hansard's as well as Johnson's *Typographia*, Nares's Glossary and his *Orthoëpy*, Brookes's Geographical Dictionary, Grose's *Cant Terms*, Jennings's *West Country Words*, Pickering's *Americanisms*, besides the German Dictionaries of Adelung, Heinsius, Campe, Röding, Nennich, &c. He has also examined many technological works, glossaries, and books of travel. By the faithful use of all these resources, Dr. Flügel has certainly made his Dictionary far more copious than any preceding work of the kind; this second edition in particular. The German reader of English literature, especially if he extend his studies to old English poetry and the Drama of Elizabeth's and Charles the Second's ages, will find many words explained, for which he will consult other dictionaries in vain. He will find, moreover, terms of art and science, of natural history, medicine, and botany, and of law, maritime affairs, commerce, &c., very fully explained and illustrated.

And, if he should undertake to master American literature as well as English, he will derive very material assistance from the labors of Dr. Flügel. "The works of the ingenious authors of the new world," says Flügel, "which in our days are read with so much delight, abound in matter new and foreign to the German translators, causing a deficiency which the author has been anxious to supply." To illustrate this remark he states, that *sleigh* has been explained to be a "chariot with wheels," and *pung* or *tompung*, an easy carriage. Turning to the word in his Dictionary, we find a very full definition, with an explanation of the differences between *sleigh*, *sled*, and *sledge*, which shows, that the author's knowledge is not merely theoretical on this subject. But *pung* or *tompung*, he defines *der einspännige Schlitten*, a sled drawn by one horse. Now this is certainly an imperfect definition; for a *pung* is as often drawn by two horses as by one, and it is something more than

a sled. It is a sled with a square or oblong box set upon it, generally used by market-men. Dr. Flügel probably enjoyed the pleasure of *sleighbing* while in the United States ; but we infer, that he never happened to be taken up by a market-man and driven into town in a pung, as we have been ; and this may serve to show the importance of practical and personal experience even in making a dictionary. But in general his definitions are remarkable for their accuracy and fulness, and we have no hesitation in recommending the work as decidedly the best and most copious English-German dictionary extant.

He has also taken great pains to mark all those words that are technical, provincial, inelegant, or antiquated ; and, so far as our observation upon this point has gone, we think his authority is to be relied upon. His efforts to facilitate the pronunciation of the English language to his countrymen have been indefatigable and surprisingly successful. He has conscientiously consulted all the best authorities on this subject, and made the best use of the information thus obtained. So far as it is possible to convey by letters and marks an idea of so capricious, and varying, and unanalogical a thing as English pronunciation, Dr. Flügel has certainly done it ; but one to whom the English is the mother tongue, will readily discover errors in regard to the niceties of pronunciation, inappreciable by a foreign ear.

The second volume is by Sporschil exclusively ; and to German students in the United States, the manner in which this is executed is a question of more importance than any thing connected with the first volume. Considerable improvements have been introduced into this volume, since the first edition. The author has endeavoured to keep pace with the progress of literature and science ; and has added about eight thousand new words in consequence. We have had occasion to compare the two editions, to a considerable extent ; and do not hesitate to declare, that, besides the increased vocabulary, very important improvements have been introduced into the definitions. But the reader of the recent literature of Germany will meet with many words, for which he will look in vain in this dictionary ; and perhaps the extent of individual caprice in coining new words, among the German writers, is so great, that no dictionary can fully satisfy the wants of a reader who knows the German language only from books. But this volume is between four and five hundred pages shorter than the first, whereas the comparative copiousness of the two languages would seem to indicate a very different proportion. In fact, though the author deserves great credit for what he has done, he has left a great deal undone. His work is the best that we

have access to at present ; but a far better work might easily be made by taking this for a basis, and extending it according to certain principles of analogy, which might be easily settled. Though the definitions are generally correct, the author has frequently introduced, without any distinguishing mark, expressions, which no native, educated Englishman or American would think of using in conversation or in writing. Thus a German who should attempt to compose in English, relying on the authority of Sporschil, would be sometimes led into very ludicrous phraseology. Sometimes important meanings of words are wholly omitted, as for instance, *Schonung* is correctly defined *indulgence*, *forbearance*, *connivance* ; but it also means, *a preserve* or *enclosure*, and this meaning is not found in Sporschil. It would not be difficult to increase the list of similar omissions, and perhaps those of greater consequence ; but it would be unjust to make them a matter of reproach to Sporschil, who has really taken a very important step towards a good German-English Dictionary. But we would recommend, that the labors of Sporschil should be revised by some competent English scholar, who is at the same time familiar with the language and literature of Germany. The great demand for a German-English Dictionary, on account of the increased and increasing attention bestowed on German literature, would justify a publisher in risking its publication. To give the best security for the thorough execution of such a task, it should be intrusted to the joint labors of a native German, and a native English or American scholar. We sincerely hope, both for our own convenience and that of many others, that such a work will be speedily accomplished.

8. — *Southern Literary Messenger*. Vol. V. No. 12. Richmond : T. W. White. 8vo. pp. 72.

WE always promise ourselves no small degree of pleasure from the pages of this well-managed magazine. We are led to refer to it, at the present time, by a judicious and scholarly stricture in the number for last month, upon a work noticed in the last number of our journal, — the recent translation of the “*Tusculan Questions*” of Cicero. Knowing it to be always our purpose, that our criticisms shall be just and fair, and that, if they err on either side, it shall be on that of indulgence, we are not in the habit of recurring to them for the purpose of defence against complaints, to which, in any quarter, they may